

J.C. Watts, Jr.  
Chairman  
4th District, Oklahoma

## —Update—

### H.R. 1905—FY 2000 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider H.R. 1905 after it completes consideration of H.R. 1401. Appropriations bills are privileged and may be considered anytime three days after they are filed. On Tuesday, May 25, the Rules Committee granted a structured rule providing for one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee. On Today, Mr. Dreier plans to amend the rule to make an additional amendment in order. The rule, as modified, makes in order two amendments: by Mr. Young (FL); and by Messrs. Camp, Roemer, and Upton. In addition, the rule waives House rules prohibiting unauthorized appropriations, legislative measures in an appropriations bill, and reappropriations. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 1905 appropriates \$1.9 billion for the House of Representatives and other legislative branch operations, \$135 million less than last year. Specifically, the bill provides (1) \$769 million for the House of Representatives (a \$28.5 million increase over the FY 1999 level); (2) \$98.8 million for joint functions of the House and Senate (a \$106.1 million decrease from last year); and (3) \$738.9 million for related agencies, such as the Library of Congress and the non-congressional work of the Government Printing Office (a \$37.2 million increase over last year). The bill does not include spending for the operations of the Senate. This year, the Senate has already completed action on its version of the legislative branch appropriations, which appropriates \$574.9 million for the Senate.

CBO estimates that enactment will result in discretionary outlays of \$1.7 billion in FY 2000, \$177 million in FY 2001, \$26 million in FY 2002, \$9 million in FY 2003, and \$4 million in FY 2004. The bill was submitted by Mr. Taylor and was reported by the Appropriations Committee by voice vote on May 20, 1999.

**Views:** The Republican leadership supports passage of H.R. 1905. An official Clinton Administration view was unavailable at press time.

**Amendments:** The structured rule makes in order the following two amendments to H.R. 1905, to be debated for the amount of time specified below.

**Mr. Young (FL)** will offer an amendment, debatable for 20 minutes, to reduce the total spending in the bill by \$54.8 million. Specific reductions include:

- \* \$142,000 from House leadership offices;
- \* \$28.3 million from Member's Representational Allowances, including the clerk hire, official expenses, and official mail accounts;
- \* \$213,000 from funds for the Appropriations Committee;
- \* \$483,000 from salaries for other authorized employees;
- \* \$1.47 million from salaries and expenses for the Architect of the Capitol, buildings and grounds;
- \* \$3.4 million from funding for House office buildings;
- \* \$4.4 million from funding for the Capitol power plant;
- \* \$315,000 from salaries and expenses for the Congressional Research Service;
- \* \$4.1 million from funding for GPO congressional printing and binding;
- \* \$685,000 from Library of Congress salaries and expenses;
- \* \$5.4 million from funding for Library of Congress furniture and furnishings;
- \* \$4.4 million from structural and mechanical care for Library buildings and grounds; and
- \* \$1.5 million from salaries and expenses for the General Accounting Office. **Staff Contact: Ed Lombard, x5-5338**

**Messrs. Camp, Roemer, and Upton** will offer an amendment, debatable for 20 minutes, mandating that any money not spent for members' representational allowances for FY 2000 be deposited in the U.S. Treasury for deficit or debt reduction. It also requires that amounts deposited in the Treasury by individual members and the House as a whole are published at the end of each session of Congress in the *Congressional Record*. **Staff Contact: Jasper Thomson, x5-3561**

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #15, May 21, 1999.



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